

# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY AGRICULTURE ELEMENT

1998 AGRICULTURE AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

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## AGRICULTURAL POLICIES (AGP)

### AGP18: Location of Improvements.

- a. **Locate new buildings, access roads, and structures so as to protect agricultural land.**

**Discussion:** This policy is intended to ensure that new facilities will be sited so that the most productive agricultural land will be kept available for agricultural production. On such land, allowable uses should generally be limited to those that are most directly related to agricultural production. Such limitations are found in existing inland LUE planning area standards that limit uses in the Arroyo Grande, Nipomo and Oso Flaco Valleys.

**Implementation:** Consistent with Agricultural Goal AG1d, no new permitting requirements are proposed for agricultural development that is currently exempt. The required level of permit processing for non-exempt projects should remain at the lowest possible level consistent with protection of agricultural resources. The Department of Planning and Building should:

1. Propose amendments to the LUO as needed to establish standards for projects requiring discretionary approval on irrigated lands or dry farm lands by either (a) locating new buildings, structures and roads on a very limited portion of the total site area, or (b) locating such improvements on the least productive portions of the property, or (c) locating such roads so they do not bisect farm fields, or (d) locating facilities outside sensitive habitats consistent with AGP 25, unless the discretionary review shows there is no practical alternative for siting the proposed facility.

**Timeframe:** 24 months from plan adoption.

2. Propose amendments to Framework for Planning and applicable planning area standards in area plans to limit allowable uses on row crop terrain and soils (as discussed earlier in this chapter under the heading “What is agricultural land?”) to those uses that are most directly related to agricultural production (see Appendix J for an example of allowable uses).

**Timeframe:** For Framework for Planning, 24 months from plan adoption. For area plans, as part of scheduled updates, or 18 months from plan adoption for area plans not scheduled for updating in that time frame.